

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 COLOMB 00884 061329 Z

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SSO-00 /026 W

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O 061300 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9339

C O N F I D E N T I A L COLOMBO 884

EXDIS

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OCON, IR, CE

SUBJ: DEPSEC VISIT SOUTH ASIA

REF STATE 56675

1. WE DID NOT COMMENT ON REFTEL BECAUSE VISIT HERE SEEMED TO BE OFF, NOW THAT IT HAPPILY APPEARS ON, FOLLOWING ARE OUR THOUGHTS.

2. WE BELIEVE SHORT ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE STATEMENTS WOULD BE DESIRABLE.

3. SUGGESTED TEXT OF ARRIVAL STATEMENT: " MRS RUSH AND I, ASSTSEC AND MRS. SISCO AND THE ENTIRE PARTY ARE VERY HAPPY TO BE HERE. WE ARE PARTICULARLY PLEASED THAT OUR VISIT COMES WITHIN A FEW DAYS OF THE 25 TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES ON APRIL 26, 1948, JUST AFTER YOUR COUNTRY ACHIEVED ITS INDEPENDENCE. THE PRESENT GOOD RELATIONS BETWEEN US ARE BASED ON MUTAL RESPECT, FRIENDSHIP, AND A SHARED BELIEF IN DEMOCRATIC IDEALS.

" WE LOOK FORWARD TO CALLING ON YOUR DISTINGUISHED PM, AN OUTSTANDING LEADER AMONG THE NON- ALIGNED NATIONS OF THE WORLD. SHE HAS GRACIOUSLY AGREED TO RECEIVE US IN NUWARA ELIYA.

". OUR ONLY REGRET IS THE BREVITY OF OUR VISIT BECAUSE ALL OF US WOULD LIKE TO SPEND MORE TIME IN YOUR VERY BEAUTIFUL
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LAND."

4. SUGGESTED TEXT OF DEPARTURE STATEMENT. " ALL OF US HAVE ENJOYED OUR STAY IN YOUR COUNTRY, WHICH HAS LIVED UP TO ITS REPUTATION OF BEING ONE OF THE MOST BEAUTIFUL IN THE WORLD. MY ONLY REGRET IS THAT WE CANNOT STAY LONGER.

" ASSISTANT SECRETARY SISCO AND I HAVE JUST HAD A VERY CORDIAL AND FRUITFUL DISCUSSION WITH YOUR PM IN NUWARA ELIYA. I BROUGHT THE PM THE SPECIAL GREETINGS OF PRES NIXON, WHO HAS ALWAYS REMEMBERED WITH PLEASURE HIS VISIT HERE WHEN HE WAS VICE PRESIDENT. HE HAD ASKED ME TO EXPRESS HIS BEST WISHES FOR THE HAPPINESS AND PROSPERITY OF SRI LANKA.

" IN OUR DISCUSSION WITH THE PM WE REVIEWED THE SITUATION IN THE SOUTH ASIAN REGION AND THE WORLD, AS WELL AS BILATERAL MATTERS OF MUTUAL INTEREST. WE, ON OUR PART, FOUND THESE TALKS OF GREAT VALUE TO OUR UNDERSTANDING OF CURRENT ISSUES.

" I WISH YOU WELL IN THE PURSUIT OF SRI LANKA' S GOALS. WE SEEK ONLY THE PROSPERITY AND STABILITY OF THE REGION.

" THANK YOU FOR MAKING OUR BRIEF VISIT SUCH A MEMORABLE ONE."

5. BECAUSE OF TIGHT SCHEDULE ON SUNDAY MORNING, 22 APRIL, WE DO NOT RECOMMEND DEPSEC MAKE HIMSELF AVAILABLE TO PRESS ON DEPARTURE. IF NEWSMEN DO PUT QUESTIONS, WE SUGGEST REPLIES BE FIELDDED WITHIN FRAMEWORK OF PROPOSED DEPARTURE STATEMENT.

6. SINCE CURRENT INDICATIONS ARE THAT DINNER SATURDAY, 21 APRIL, WILL BE " FAMILY STYLE" AT RESIDENCE, WE ARE NOT TRANSMITTING PROPOSED RESPONSE TO TOAST.
VAN HOLLEN

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** EXDIS

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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